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EXAMINER

MISIASZEK, MICHAEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3625

DATE MAILED: 08/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/733,830	<b>Applicant(s)</b> HEINS, DOUGLAS B.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Michael Misiaszek	<b>Art Unit</b> 3625	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-73 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 29-73 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 May 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

Claims 22 and 26 are objected to because of the following informalities: in claim 23, elements b) and c), the phrase "within each system component contain" does not make sense grammatically. The Examiner suggests editing the phrase to read -- wherein each system component contains --. In claim 26, the phrase "one system component is user email account" should be changed to read -- one system component is a user email account --. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Double Patenting***

Applicant is advised that should claim 27 be found allowable, claim 28 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

- 1. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 13, 17, and 20-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Berarducci et al. (US 20050225799 A1, hereinafter Berarducci).**

Regarding Claim 1

Berarducci discloses a computer implemented method for performing the business of placing a digital image processing and fulfillment order via a communications network comprising:

- identifying a user (at least paragraph [0025]: user account)
- acquiring an at least one digital image captured by a digital imaging device (at least abstract)
- associating profile, personalization and customization aspects to said identified user into a user provisioner (at least paragraph [0040]: user service account options)

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- automatically performing a single-event instantiation process which completes a user request, said single-event instantiation process including sending a processing and fulfillment order along with the user provisioner to a plurality of system components, the plurality of system components operating to fulfill said user request (at least paragraph [0033]: user places an order, which uses service account)
- receiving said user request under control of a single-event instantiation of a plurality of processing and fulfillment system components (at least paragraph [0033]: user places order)
- retrieving the provisioner associated with said identified user (at least paragraph [0033]: user places an order, which uses service account)
- determining payment and authorization methods using said user provisioner
- retrieving a fulfillment delivery method using said user provisioner (at least paragraph [0039]: delivery information)
- providing for user personalization and customization of the order processing and fulfillment workflow using said user provisioner (at least paragraph [0041]: preferred fulfillment times)
- fulfilling said processing and fulfillment order to complete processing and fulfillment of the single-event instance (at least paragraph [0041]: order fulfilled)
- whereby the processing and fulfillment order is completed without using a software application, a web online service, or a traditional shopping cart ordering model (at least paragraph [0037]: order fulfilled through ground mail)

Regarding Claims 2, 4, 5, 10, 13, 17, 20-26

Berarducci discloses:

- wherein the step of automatically performing a single-event instantiation process is the result identification of the user and acquisition said at least one digital image (at least paragraph [0038] and abstract: login and picture acquisition)
- wherein user identification involves entry of user id and password in a single-event instantiation (at least paragraph [0007]: password and user id login)
- wherein user identification involves an email address and password in a single-event instantiation (at least paragraph [0007]: password and email address login)
- wherein the acquisition of digital images is made via a direct cable link to the digital imaging device (at least paragraph [0029]: cable connection)
- wherein the digital imaging device is a digital still camera device (at least paragraph [0029]: Kodak digital camera)
- wherein the user is a single user and the information regarding the user is captured dynamically and additional information augments the dynamic user information during the single-event instantiation of a processing and fulfillment order (at least paragraph [0040]: user account information augmented)
- wherein the client system and the plurality of system components communicate via a Wide Area Network such as the Internet (at least paragraph [0016])

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- wherein the client system and the plurality of system components communicate via a secure connection utilizing encryption for those portions of the processing and fulfillment order for which security and privacy are desired (at least paragraph [0040])
- wherein the client system connects to a plurality of system components comprising:
  - a) under control of an individual system component, the means to receive a processing and fulfillment order from either a client system or from another system component (at least paragraph [0041]: fulfillment center receives order)
  - b) and, within each system component contain the necessary computing resources to locate additional information needed to execute their individual affects on the processing and fulfillment order (at least paragraph [0033]: database obtains billing information)
  - c) and, within each system component contain the necessary computing resources to access and augment the user provisioner needed to execute their individual affects on the processing and fulfillment order and update the provisioner as necessary to reflect the system component is complete (at least paragraph [0040]: information augmented)
- wherein the system components can serve multiple purposes in completing one or more aspects of the processing and fulfillment order (at least paragraphs [0033] and [0041]: database and fulfillment center)

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- wherein the system components can process multiple single-event instantiations of the user request processing and fulfillment order, each mutually independent from each other (at least paragraph [0063]: system can handle multiple orders from one user)
- wherein one system component is a server offering one or more different processing and fulfillment behaviors (at least paragraph [0016]: system is on Internet, therefore having a server that can complete separate tasks)
- wherein one system component is user email account displaying an email information message pertinent to the user request processing and fulfillment order status (at least paragraph [0058]: email to user account)

the client system and the plurality of system

components communicate via a secure connection utilizing encryption for those portions of the processing and fulfillment order for which security and privacy are desired.



***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**2. Claims 3 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berarducci in view of Mauro et al. (US 20030200099 A1, hereinafter Mauro).**

Berarducci teaches the claimed invention except for:

- the user does not need to explicitly, directly or indirectly, specify operations, manipulations or enhancements on the at least one digital image, either singularly or as a group or collection, when placing a processing and fulfillment order
- the acquisition of digital photographs uses a digital media memory card reader.

Mauro teaches that it is known to include providing for a user to not have to explicitly specify operations on digital images (at least paragraph [0018]: default photofinishing options for user) and acquiring digital photographs using a digital media memory card reader (at least abstract) in a similar environment. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method, as taught by Berarducci, with the default options and memory card reader of Mauro, since such a modification would have provided a means of minimizing necessary customer interaction with a photofinishing service (at least paragraph [0004] of Mauro).

**3. Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berarducci in view of Ramachandran et al. (US 20010044747 A1, hereinafter Ramachandran).**

Berarducci teaches the claimed invention except for:

- user identification is a credit card/ATM swipe in a single-event instantiation
- user identification in a single-event instantiation is enabled through a smart chip enabled device
- user identification in a single-event instantiation is enabled through a biometric identification

Ramachandran teaches that it is known to include user identification by a credit card swipe, a smart chip enabled device, and biometric identification (at least paragraph [0048]: obtaining of user's account information) in a similar environment. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method taught by Berarducci with the user identification techniques, as taught by Ramachandran, since such a modification would have provided a means of associating a fee for the distribution of digital content (at least paragraph [0018] of Ramachandran).

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**4. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berarducci in view of House et al. (US 20030229536 A1, hereinafter House).**

Berarducci teaches the claimed invention except for:

- the single-event instantiation of user identification is a self mailer/drop-off mailer model

House teaches that it is known to include using a self mailer/drop-off mailer model (at least paragraph [0073]) in a similar environment. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method, as taught by Berarducci, with the self mailer model, as taught by House, since such a modification would have provided a means for offering the best delivery options based on user input (at least paragraph [0073] of House).

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**5. Claims 11, 14, 15, 27, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berarducci in view of Paul (US 20040171371 A1).**

Berarducci teaches the claimed invention except for:

- the acquisition of digital images is made via a wireless link to the digital imaging device
- the digital imaging device is a digital video camera device
- the digital imaging device is a mobile radiotelephone device
- one system component is a user text messaging account destination displaying information pertinent to the user request processing and fulfillment order

Paul teaches that it is known to include acquiring digital images via a wireless link (at least abstract), the digital image device being a digital video camera device (at least paragraph [0019] or a mobile radiotelephone device (at least paragraph [0032]: camera phone), and a user text messaging account destination displaying information pertinent to the order (at least paragraph [0036]: SMS) in a similar environment. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method, as taught by Berarducci, with the wireless link, digital imaging devices, and text messaging, as taught by Paul, since such a modification would have provided a means for users to have limitless developed pictures without running out of film (at least paragraph [0025] of Paul).

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**6. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berarducci in view of Chauvin et al. (US 20030038882 A1, hereinafter Chauvin).**

Berarducci teaches the claimed invention except for:

- the digital imaging device is a portable digital assistant computing device with digital camera extension.

Chauvin teaches that it is known to include a portable digital assistant with a digital camera extension as a digital imaging device (at least paragraph [0051]) in a similar environment. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method as taught by Berarducci, with the personal digital assistant with digital camera extension, as taught by Chauvin, since such a modification would have provided a means for various types of entities to be used for imaging services (at least paragraph [0008] of Chauvin).

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**7. Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berarducci in view of von Rosen et al. (US 20030069809 A1, hereinafter Rosen).**

Berarducci teaches the claimed invention except for:

- the entire single-event instantiation of a processing and fulfillment order offers a preview of the entire processing and fulfillment workflow to verify and validate that all options are valid and available as specified by the user provisioner
- the presentation of information captured during a preview of the entire processing and fulfillment workflow permits the user to fine-tune choices and options prior to final commitment

Rosen teaches that it is known to include a preview of the workflow options of an order, in which the options can be fine-tuned (at least figure 11B: user can go back to change options if desired) in a similar environment. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method, as taught by Berarducci, with the workflow preview, as taught by Rosen, since such a modification would have provided a means to allow consumers to easily and conveniently purchase merchandise personalized to their own tastes (at least paragraph [0004] of Rosen).

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**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Misiaszek whose telephone number is (571) 272-6961. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith can be reached on (571) 272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Michael A. Misiaszek  
Patent Examiner  
8/3/2006

*MA Misiaszek*  
Primary Examiner